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REMARKS

Claims 1-72 remain in the application. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and forwarding of the application onto issuance.

Claim Rejections

All of the claims are rejected under either: (1) 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0099713 Al to Fernandez et al., or (2) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fernandez as a primary reference in view of references to Markel and/or Abdelnur.

Rule 131 Declaration

Applicant submits herewith a Rule 131 Declaration that removes Fernandez as a reference. Accordingly, the claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowability be issued forthwith.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: <u>10 | 29 | 04</u>

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